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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In re Application of

HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS GALAXY, INC.

For Interim Assignment of the
Galaxy VI Domestic Fixed-Satellite
to the 99° W.L. Orbital Position

File No. 13-DSS-ML-90

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Domestic Facilities Division
Satellite Radio Branch

COMMENTS OF
GE AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

GE Communications, Inc. ("GE Americom") hereby comments on one aspect of the request of Hughes Communications Galaxy, Inc. ("HGC") for an interim assignment of its Galaxy VI satellite to 99° W.L., from 1991 to 1993, purportedly to provide continuity of service to customers after Westar IV reaches its end of life and before HGC replaces it.

While GE Americom does not have a position on the merits of HGC's request, we would like to comment on the future of Galaxy VI after it completes its two-year bridge service. According to HGC, it plans to seek a further modification¹ of the Commission's

¹ HGC has already applied, in File No. 1-DSS-MP/ML-89, to modify its authorization at 99° to locate the Galaxy IV(H) hybrid satellite at this position.

carefully-crafted 1988 Orbit Allocation Plan², this time to launch a hybrid satellite, to be dubbed Galaxy VII(H), into the 91° orbital location that the Commission assigned to Galaxy VI. Assuming authorization to use a hybrid satellite at 91°, HGC states that, when Galaxy VI is no longer needed in its temporary assignment at 99°, the satellite will become "redundant," entitling HGC to retain this satellite as an in-orbit spare, use it to replace an existing Galaxy satellite, or seek "an appropriate assignment" for it.³

GE Americom reserves the right to comment when and if HGC seeks what it considers "an appropriate assignment" for Galaxy VI. In the meantime, we would simply request the Commission to remind HGC that, if it does not locate Galaxy VI in its assigned position at 91° after its continuity is completed, HGC should not, by virtue of having an in-orbit satellite, receive a preference over any other applicant to reassign Galaxy VI to an available but unassigned orbital location. To grant HGC such a preference to a particular orbital location merely because it has launched an otherwise mothballed satellite, without giving other applicants seeking such a position an opportunity to stake their own claims, would violate basic considerations of fairness, as

² In the Matter of Assignment of Orbital Locations to Space Stations in the Domestic Fixed Satellite Service, 3 FCC Rcd 6972 (1988).

³ Request for Interim Assignment of Orbital Location at 4 n. 3.

well as the Commission's established policy of considering all applications for orbital assignments as a group rather than separately. In other words, if HGC uses Galaxy VI only to provide continuity to service at 99°, it should do so at its risk that it will not necessarily be reassigned to the next available orbital location that becomes open.

Respectfully submitted,



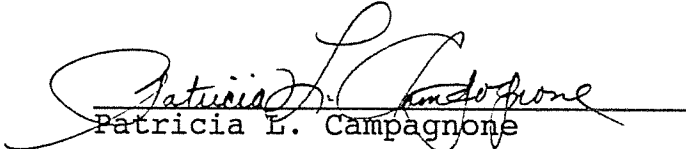
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February 26, 1990

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Patricia L. Campagnone, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was sent via U.S. first class mail, postage prepaid, to:

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